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department to destroy the leaf pest, as promised by him in his reply to the last supplementary question in connexion with question No. 140 asked in the Legislative Council on 30th October 1933;

(c) if so, whether he will be pleased to place the information on the table of the House;

(d) whether there is any proposal to start again the use of parasites to kill the leaf pest; and

(e) whether any attempts have been made by the Agricultural Department to combat the attacks of the rhinoceros beetle?

A.—(a) The number of trees attacked during the last three years in South Kanara district is not known. In certain villages along the sea coast, the coconut leaf caterpillar assumed a pest form in some years, especially during the dry months of the year. In extreme cases all fronds except the central shoots are affected but the tree is not killed. During the rainy season, the pest subsides. Control measures were demonstrated in bad centres.

(b) & (c) Yes; a copy of the report of the Director of Agriculture is laid on the Table.[a]

(d) There is no such proposal. The special staff sanctioned for the breeding and liberation of parasites was withdrawn as a measure of retrenchment. The parasites are now found wherever the caterpillar pest is found, in small or large numbers, and they check the pest to a certain extent. It is, therefore, considered unnecessary to breed and liberate them.

(e) The Entomological Assistant stationed in the VII Circle and the Agricultural Demonstrators concerned give advice to the ryots regarding the remedial measures to be undertaken and whenever possible demonstrations of control methods are also given. The department is also educating the ryots by means of publications such as the Villagers' Calendar. The publication mentioned above contains a popular article on the beetles damaging the coconut trees in South India and their control.

Co-operation

Reasons for refusing the registration of the Depressed Classes Co-operators' Federation, Madras.

* 258 Q.—Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the co-operative propaganda among depressed classes is now carried on by the Madras District Central Bank;

(b) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the inadequate propaganda carried on by the above bank;

[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on page 116 infra.

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(c) whether it is a fact that the Central Bank has appointed a defaulter of a co-operative society, who was responsible for several misappropriations and consequent liquidation, as a propagandist;

(d) whether it is a fact that Mr. H. M. Hood, I.C.S., former Registrar of Co-operative Societies, ordered that the defaulter should not have anything to do with the Madras City societies;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies inspected the depressed classes co-operative societies in the City of Madras during April 1935 last and the names of the various societies which he visited;

(f) whether during his inspection, there were several requests for the registration of the Depressed Classes Co-operators' Federation; if so, what his reply was;

(g) when the Registrar last inspected the Madras District Central Co-operative Bank, Limited, and whether he made enquiries as to the several complaints made by the public either by letters or through the press and with what results;

(h) what action has been taken on the several resolutions passed under the presidentship of M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur G. Narayanaswami Chetti Garu, C.I.E., on the 7th October 1934; and

(i) with reference to the abstract G.O. Ms. No. 949, dated 4th July 1935, communicated to the Secretary, Depressed Classes Co-operators' Federation, Madras, whether the Government will be pleased to state what the reasons of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies were to refuse 'registering' the abovesaid Federation?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have no reason to think that the propaganda is inadequate.

(c) The Madras District Co-operative Central Bank has appointed, from July 1934, R. Rajagopal (a member of a depressed class) as a propagandist. He was a member of the Thousand Lights Co-operative Society and was heavily indebted to it. He was also its Secretary. The affairs of the Society were mismanaged by him. Its registration was cancelled. There was no case of misappropriation of funds against Rajagopal.

(d) No.

(e) Yes. The societies inspected were—

(1) Gajendra Varada Co-operative Society.
(2) Mackey's Garden Co-operative Society.
(3) Narasingapuram Co-operative Society.
(4) Wellington Co-operative Society.
(5) Prince of Wales Co-operative Society.
(6) Kalyanamaistry Garden Co-operative Society.
(7) Slaterpuram Queen Victoria Co-operative Society.

(f) In two of the societies inspected by the Registrar, requests were made for the registration of the Depressed Classes Co-operators' Federation. As the Registrar had already

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carefully gone into the proposal, and had informed the Honorary Secretary that there was no need for the Federation, no action was taken by him on these representations.

(g) On the 23rd July 1934. There is nothing on record to show what enquiries were actually made then.

(h) In his letter forwarding the resolutions referred to, the General Secretary, Depressed Classes Co-operators' Federation, drew the attention of Government to the following three questions:—

(1) that the appointment of special inspectors for the supervision of depressed classes' societies has not benefited either the societies or the banks which finance them,

(2) that the City Co-operative Bank draws to itself members of the depressed classes leaving the depressed classes' societies with no proper men to manage them, and

(3) that a rule should be framed prohibiting a paid employee of a society from serving on the board of management of that society or that a financing bank.

With regard to the first point, special inspectors have now been working under the direct control of the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras, who watches their work and reviews it. As regards the second point, the City Bank caters to the needs of the rather more well-to-do among the depressed classes who require bigger loans, and the bank cannot deny such help to those who need it. As for the third point, the question of framing a rule as suggested is under consideration.

(i) As there exists already a duly constituted body, viz., the Madras District Central Bank, for the purpose of carrying on propaganda work in the city and as that bank has expressed itself in favour of enlisting the services of honorary propagandists from among the promoters of the Federation, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies considered that there was no need for the registration of another society. Further, it was considered that the Federation, if registered, would not have sufficient funds to carry on.

Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—"With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I know how many co-operative societies have been established as a result of the propaganda carried on by the Madras District Central Bank?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"The answer says that the Government have no reason to think that the propaganda is inadequate. I do not understand how this question arises."